

March 8, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Is this Senator DeCamp or Senator Schmit, or is there a difference? Other than that there's no difference. Senator Schmit, is the theory of this to put everyone in Nebraska to work?

SENATOR SCHMIT: The theory of this amendment, Senator Cavanaugh, is to encourage individuals who now are unemployed to accept employment that is available.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: But you are going to put.... If this is adopted will there be no individual unemployed in the State of Nebraska without a job in the State of Nebraska except for those persons who have a psychological or a physical condition which would prevent them from being employed?

SENATOR SCHMIT: In theory, Senator Cavanaugh, that would be correct. In actuality, no, that would not be correct. The Labor Department would not go along with that. It would be a major step in that direction.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Now that's my problem. Can you explain to me why it would not cause total and full 100 percent employment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: For the same reason that today we do not seem to be able to differentiate between a voluntary quit and an individual who lost his job through no fault of his own.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: I don't understand.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. Chesick, the Director of Labor, has in the past assumed, I believe based upon the record of individuals who must go without their unemployment checks depending upon whether or not they were voluntary quits or not, that the vast majority of those individuals quit work voluntarily. Therefore, I would assume that Mr. Chesick would find a number of reasons why individuals would not be required to take these jobs. Knowing the full....

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: But there's no option here. I don't see any discretion with the Commissioner. It says any person eligible for the benefits must register and must accept the employment or not receive the benefits. There's no discretion here, is there?

SENATOR SCHMIT: The discretion is left with the hardship or the emotional problem that's involved.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: That is it.

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is it.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: So then it is a full employ.... Every Nebraskan, with the exception of those physically and psychologically unable to work, would be put to work if this bill was enacted.